

Governance for Resilient Communities

Build Citizen Capacity

Empower citizens to be responsible for creating the communities they want.

Educate Government/Institutions

Educate government/institutional leaders on the necessity of citizen engagement for collaborative and effective programs.

Improve Public Debate

Expand deliberation so that more voices are heard and integrated into public decisions.

Why Citizen-Driven Community Governance?

When **ordinary people** are able to **affect** how government services are provided, **partner** with local institutions to solve problems, and **participate** meaningfully in policy making, a number of benefits result:

- 1) Policies and services are “smarter” b/c they are informed by citizen knowledge;
- 2) Policies and services enjoy broader political support;
- 3) Citizens feel more powerful, respected and part of their community—and therefore contribute their own skills, ideas and energy to improving their neighborhoods.

Matt Leighninger, Deliberative Democracy Consortium
PACE (Philanthropy for Active Civic Engagement) Report, April 2009

CCR History

Founded in 1996 when citizen leaders saw a need for more inclusive regional thinking, CCR has continued to be at the forefront of civic engagement in greater Cincinnati. Past initiatives have included regional “safe space” citizen dialogs, analyses of regional disparities, the shared services movement, and Agenda 360 citizen feedback.

Currently focused on building collaborative governance structures based on increased citizen activism, CCR trains citizen leaders, helps government better engage citizens, and leads deliberative policy discussions that transcend partisan acrimony.

Jeffrey L. Stec, J.D.

Executive Director

Jeffrey L. Stec practiced law for eight years--often representing indigent children and parents in the foster care system--before building the estate giving program at the United Way of Greater Cincinnati. Since 2000 he has been an active citizen in neighborhood building efforts, including several planning initiatives in Over-the-Rhine and the formation of the Enright Ridge Urban Eco-Village in East Price Hill. His work as a professional community engagement facilitator includes the City of Covington citizen-driven master planning process and recent work engaging citizens around the City of Cincinnati operating budget and police practices. Jeffrey still works in law, teaching lawyers collaborative negotiating skills, as he works as the executive director of Citizens for Civic Renewal, a local non-profit dedicated to creating collaborative citizen governance in Greater Cincinnati.

2011 Accomplishments

- Trained citizen leaders in collaborative community building through the Citizens’ Toolkit interactive educational series.
- Helped the City of Cincinnati build citizen connections that lead to sustainable neighborhood change.
- Gathered extensive citizen viewpoints and research data to build a foundation for deliberation on Cincinnati policing practices and budgeting (available on CCR’s new interactive website, including video clips from an expert panel discussion).
- Advocated for civic engagement as a steering committee participant in the Plan Cincinnati and Core Change initiatives.
- Helped educate U.C. students through guest teaching in DAAP planning department classes.
- Co-designed and facilitated the Bridging Broadway community planning initiative for holistic neighborhood development around the new casino.

2012 Goals

- Grow the CCR membership and enhance citizen leadership training through active involvement in CCR projects.
- Work with the Cincinnati Police Department to enhance their citizen engagement efforts.
- Present a symposium to help government leaders productively utilize citizen energy.
- Host quarterly public deliberations on “hot” community issues.
- Continue to work with other civic organizations to build collective momentum for a citizen agenda.

